

THE

BURMA NEWS



JUNE, 1940

FROM THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS IN BURMA



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THE BURMA NEWS

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A Message from the Field Secretary

"Where is the man to fill this vacancy?"

In the April BURMA NEWS Rev. A. C. Parish quoted that question from February MISSIONS and drew attention to the fact that the question comes to us with double force. The answer is:—*No one person* can begin to fill the vacancy caused by the loss of Dr. George D. Josif. It is only since he has gone that we have begun to realize adequately how many different things Dr. Josif did, and did well and efficiently and with a smile. What a privilege the Burma Mission has had for twenty years of having such an outstanding genius and brother! We all loved him and admired his ability and industry and greatly valued his friendship. We feel his loss the more as we realize how utterly impossible it would be for anyone else in the Burma Mission to fill his place as Educational Advisor, Principal of Cushing and English High Schools and as Field Secretary.

And many other activities looked to him for his efficient help. Probably many of us will find ourselves trying to do part of what he did. The Headmasters of Cushing and English High have been asked to act as Principals of those schools, for the time, and it is our sincere hope that a man will soon be sent out from the United States for those schools. The Reference Committee did not see how it could send a missionary now in Burma, to those schools without crippling the work elsewhere. That (not crippling other work) was part of the problem before Conference at Maymyo in choosing a Field Secretary to carry on until the October election.

I will continue to have oversight of the Southern Chin work at Thayetmyo, and "from Dan to Beersheba, and beyond the borders thereof." In other words, I will commute between the twin cities of Thayetmyo and Rangoon and also visit other stations that call for a visit. I have a free railway pass so

The cover picture: Dr. Ah Ma, of the Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital in Moulmein, with two of the babies born in that hospital.

travel by railway is not expensive. If you feel that I should visit you, please let me know.

Two years ago I spent the hot season with the Southern Chins of the Sandoway field, since I had been asked to give part time to that field. A year ago I roasted (or was parboiled) during the hot season at Thayetmyo. This year I thought I might get a hot season vacation at Maymyo at the Memorial Rest House where we first spent the hot season twenty-seven years ago. After being elected Field Secretary on 2nd April I found that it was no longer a *rest* house for me, although I did greatly appreciate the fine fellowship there. With the office and various files in Rangoon it was difficult for a green Field Secretary to try to carry on at Maymyo. So I left there on the 30th April and fortunately followed a thunder shower along the railway, which greatly cooled the air.

Did you hear how I was providentially provided with furniture in the Field Secretary's house? On the morning of the first May I looked at a bed in the Guest House, next door to the Field Secretary's house, and planned to ask permission to borrow it for a few months to use it in the Field Secretary's house when I am in Rangoon. That noon Mr. Read, Superintendent of the Mission Press, phoned and asked if he could store some furniture here as he had rented one of the mission houses on Sandwith Road, which was furnished, and the tenant did not wish the furniture. I told him to send it. The next morning three lorries brought furniture, including two beds, tables, chairs, and now the Field Secretary's house is fairly well furnished and homelike. That is, as homelike as it can be with a family by correspondence around the other side of the world.

An air mail in twelve days from my wife told of her spending the week-end with Dr. and Mrs. Howard, after having been informed of the fact that

I am now your Field Secretary. She is still hoping that the doctors will permit her return to Burma during this term of service.

The first Saturday in May I found quite hot at Prome. The following week Thayetmyo was cooler as a result of showers. Attended the May monthly meetings of the Borstall School and Thayetmyo Civil Hospital Committees. The Chairman is U Aung Gyaw, B.A., A.T.M., the Deputy Commissioner, one of our Burman Baptists. Recently he has been confirmed as Deputy Commissioner, although others had officiated longer.

Remember that the Field Secretary is dependent upon your prayers and am grateful to Mr. Parish for his appeal in the May BURMA NEWS to give the new Field Secretary "all the encouragement and help we can." And he will try to help you all he can.

Mr. S. O. Daniel, Secretary to the Field Secretary, has been taking his month's leave during May so I have not had his efficient help much, in finding where I am at, and where things in the office are. We are fortunate to have had Mr. Daniel in the office during the terms of the last three Field Secretaries. I have already seen enough to have an admiration for and an appreciation of the efficient work Dr. Chaney did along different lines and his genius in preparing material which is a very valuable aid to his successors and to the Reference Committee. I am grateful for my eight and a half years' service on the Reference Committee since January 1925, for it has acquainted me with many problems with which I will have to deal and which will have the consideration of the Reference Committee. Am being introduced to others.

Already I have had some fine talks with some of our national Baptist brethren and it is those heart to heart

ks which put joy into the work and feeling that it is worth while.

we can all work together in real spirit of Christian love and fellowship I believe there are great possibilities for the advance of the kingdom of God in Burma.

E. Carroll Conduct,
Field Secretary.



Karen Women's Bible School

This past year has been a good one for the Karen Women's Bible School, in spite of decreasing gifts from some places. The eighty-six girls in school have been unusually well and for several years past there hasn't been such a promising group of graduates—thirty-nine in all.

Under the able leadership of Miss Beebe and the four very splendid teachers, the girls have been fitted to take places of leadership all over Burma. This year's graduates have been given places to work immediately in Daily Vacation Bible School, in short teaching positions, as regular teachers and traveling workers or situated in some one needy district.

In some associations, for lack of funds, one girl has sometimes been placed alone. I hope in the future that may not be done unless the villages are not very far apart, for these girls need—as we all do—to have the frequent encouragement and fellowship with other Christians in their difficult task of winning others to Christ, and to a really Christian way of living.

There are prospects of some good new students to enter our first year class and we expect that all of our second and third year girls will be able to return. By the time the News reaches you, our school will have re-

"Rejoice with Them that Do Rejoice"

"Congratulations secretaryship and grandson" was the cable which reached Dr. Conduct from his home church in Trenton, N.J. We extend our felicitations to the new grandfather. The proud father is Dr. Conduct's son, Clinton, a senior in Andover-Newton Theological Institution.

opened. We hope that all our Christian friends will remember us often in prayer as we seek to train these fine young Karen women for future leadership.

Although many of our Karen friends have been very generous, we are feeling the pinch of less gifts from several associations on account of bad crops. Therefore I hope that all our missionary and Karen friends will remember that our school is like the Baptist Orphanage, dependent upon voluntary gifts. It would be most helpful if not only at the association times, but monthly, those who are able might give gifts to help support the work which is yours, and the girls whom we are training to go out and help you in all the needy places of Burma.

Miss Beebe has gone on furlough and we hope so much that while she is trying in America, we too as Karen women may try our best in Burma, to raise extra money for the new Karen Woman's Bible School out on the Seminary compound at Insein. Already some Karen Woman's Societies are responding beautifully to this extra responsibility. If we trust God and follow His leading we know that we cannot help but go forward in this new school year.

Charity C. Carman.

News from the Folks in America

From the J. E. Cummings':

40 Chase St.,
Newton Centre, Mass.
March 25, 1940.

Wife and I have just returned from a three months' trip to California to visit Roger and family at Berkeley where we celebrated our first Christmas with them in ten years and had with us also Ross and Lora from Corvallis, Oregon. We had a fine time and met many of our Burma missionaries now in retirement on the Pacific Coast.

John E. Cummings.

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From the S. M. Englands:

1786 W. Church St.,
Gainesville, Fla.
March 6, 1940.

"We landed in Los Angeles on December 7, and found Mabel's father and two brothers there to meet us. December 15 we got to Birmingham and stayed there until after Christmas when we went to S. C. to visit my family. I had written Dr. Howard that we would like to spend some time down here in Florida, and he suggested that we come to Gainesville where I could get some work in agriculture that would be useful to the Kachins. It has turned out that he was very much in the right. We have been very happily settled in a little cottage, with just enough room to turn around in, and I have been getting some classes in the college of agriculture. The children were all full of colds when we first got home, but they are thriving now. And Mabel seems to be enjoying house-keeping—she certainly ought to enjoy it, because we are all getting fat off her cooking.

Things don't seem so strange to us any more, as they did when we first came home, but still we haven't got entirely accustomed to the fast pace

everybody moves at. New and bigger and faster cars everywhere. I think there is any depression now, it must be in the minds of the people who want bigger cars than the Joneses have. Of course there is still a lot of unemployment, but that is probably here to stay, because the machine cannot be displaced and the people who profit most are unwilling to see that the men who are put out should somehow be taken care of out of these high excess profits that come to them through the improvement in machinery. There are a few firms doing that, but all too few as yet. But you get as much through the paper as we do, no doubt.

We have wondered what has happened to the Finnish people at Mogok. If they are still in Burma they must be suffering great hardship because they probably can't get any money through from Finland.

J. M. Englands

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From Dr. Grey:

Mrs. H. W. Smith writes: "To-day (April 9) I had a letter from Dr. Grey. She is at Evanston in an apartment hotel with her sister. She says 'It looks as though the chances of my improvement and return to Burma next fall were good.' She is to rest a good deal and is trying to obey orders."

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From Mrs. Henderson:

156 Great Oak Lane,
Pleasantville, New York

"My son-in-law left yesterday for his return journey to China, and Katherine and Robin and I are living together until she returns early in August, D. V. The above address is to be ours after tomorrow."

Cora M. Henderson.

News from the Folks in America

from the Lattas:

Singapore, May 2.

Well, here we are and a nice place it is to be, and a lot cooler than Angoon.....I am feeling fifty per cent better than when I left. Mrs. Latta is holding her own or better....

J. T. Latta.

Singapore, May 8.

The Lattas sailed from Singapore yesterday morning on the S.S. "City of San Francisco" bound for the U. S. A.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Latta seemed to gain in spirits and strength each day they were here. Providentially, the weather was cool. Mr. Latta entertained us not only with good fellowship and numerous stories but even gave us a few little songs. We certainly hope he will continue his improvement on the trip home. Mrs. Latta was more careful of her health and was trying to save her strength although from her appearance one would never gain the impression that she was ill.

We took them on several rides about the city. We shall be interested to hear of their safe arrival home...

Paul E. Thomas,
Asst. Treasurer,
Methodist Mission.



from Mrs. H. W. Smith:

506 So. Dubuque,
Iowa City, Iowa,
March 23, 1940.

Since it is customary to give an account of yourself at least once while on furlough and as some of you have been expecting something of the sort to appear in the News, I will break the silence of more than a year and let you all know of my whereabouts.

Since September 1939 we have been together at Iowa City in the "tall corn State" which was my former home state. It was on this University campus and in the First Baptist Church that H. W. and I first met and where acquaintance ripened into friendship and that stage developed into romance and marriage, and then departure for Burma soon after our vows were spoken. The University has grown and spread out and everything except the very heart of the campus has changed and I am glad it has. I still do not like to pass some of the old buildings that remind me of other days with their happy associations.

Most of you know that both our boys are in the medical school of this university and doing their junior year together. Peggy graduated from high school last June and came here for her college work. We have a small four-room apartment not too far from town and university and have enjoyed the home life together. The boys' hobby is music. Records of symphonies, concertos and other masterpieces played through an electrical outfit of their own contrivance fill the house with music whenever they are home.

It was my intention to stay pretty close "to home" and really make a home for the family and not go out on deputation work to any extent. But somehow or another I found myself going places and taking on speaking engagements here and there till I really feel for an avowed "stay at home" I have done quite a bit.

I have met people who have known some of you. In Iowa many have spoken of Rebecca Anderson. Several people in different states have asked me about Saw Chit Maung. The Russell Orrs of Quincy, Ill., had pictures of him. In Indiana, Jennie

News from the Folks in America

C. Morgan Phelps was a familiar name; some spoke of Julia Parrott and the McGuires.

One of my happy experiences in Indiana was the privilege of making my brother-in-law's (Rev. E. J. Smith) home at Anderson practically my headquarters from which I toured with one of the State Convention officers to mid-year association conferences all over the northern half of the state for parts of three weeks.

This month, (March) and half of April I am unable to get away, having to undergo a complete dental overhaul and re-outfitting. In May I expect to go to Colorado for the Woman's Missionary Houseparty.

The weather has been "unusual" again. A marvelous fall with Indian summer right up to Christmas, was followed by a severe January cold spell and blizzard, the remains of which stayed with us for many weeks. And now we are having the coldest Easter on record, temperatures just above zero in some places in Iowa and way below in the Dakotas and other northern states. Let this cool you off!

Like everyone else, I look for letters from Burma every week, and am disconsolate when none come. Also like most housekeepers in the homeland, I find my time so fully occupied with the many things that need to be done that letter writing is more or less neglected. Mrs. Jury has been helpful in passing on interesting bits of news she has clipped from circulars. I shall miss her contributions when she leaves for Burma, as she soon will.

By the time this will appear in print the school year will be about over and some of us will be in other locations. James and Lewis have been made happy by a joint appointment to Junior Internships at Oakdale, state

T. B. Sanitarium about five miles from here. This is for the three summer vacation months and fits in with their preparation for life work as no other summer job could do. What Peggy and I will do this summer is still undecided. The above address will reach us anytime.

Hulda Keller Smith



From the Wiatts:

The Phillips House,
Kowloon, Hongkong,
China.

May 2, 1942

We have found since coming that the steamships will no longer accept boxes even though provided with hinges and locks, as baggage. These must be shipped as freight. I thought you would want to know this so to inform any other missionaries coming this way. I am having our boxes shipped; it means a good deal of extra bother which would be hard especially for a woman travelling alone.

This is a beautiful place as you doubtless know, and we have enjoyed our stay as much as is possible when you have no special job to do. We are all eager to get off again. The Coolidge is six days late so we do not get off until the 10th instead of the 4th as originally planned.

Lucy arrived Tuesday morning having made all her connections in Singapore without difficulty. There are now about twelve Baptists in the group stopping here, for Wathen and wife of India have joined us and will sail by Coolidge. Gressitt, who is teaching in the Christian College in Canton also came in last night on his way back to Canton. They have had to move their college down here on account of the Japs but he has stayed at Canton to guard the property there.

W. E. Wiatt

Ellen Mitchell Memorial Hospital—1939.



Dr. Ah Ma (right), three nurses, and as fine a bunch of babies as one would want to see!

Dr. Grey is the proper person to make this report for I did not come back here until September. I do not feel I know much about the work of the year but with the help of the nurses and our annual report I have found the following facts that may be of interest to others.

The hospital has grown steadily in the last three years.

In-patients	1937	1938	1939
New Cases ..	1161	1307	1517
Total Attendance	22703	26443	31899
Out-patients.			
New Cases ..	3086	3622	5017
Total Attendance	4914	6717	6580
Men patients.			
In-patients ..	154	217	265
Out-patients ..	396	642	905
Daily average attendance.			
In-patients ..	62	72	87
Out-patients ..	16	21	21

Here, the out-patient department does not show much increase. Remember the Civil Hospital gives free medicine and there are many doctors in town.

Surgical Cases	252	879	1157
Labour Cases	147	186	235

Of these labors, 133 were normal and 102 abnormal. This has been

about the ratio since the hospital began. Normal patients prefer to stay at home and have the fire beside the bed even in the hottest of weather, to "draw out the poisons" from their systems, to sit up when they like and to have their relatives and friends (and the whole village too) swarm around them. It is a thrill to be the center of attraction for a while. Then too, the municipality and government have put trained midwives into various sections of the town and into large villages respectively, so that women can be well cared for at home. In spite of that, however, the number of normal labors in hospital has increased. It has been a great blessing to the people in these parts to have these trained midwives stationed among them, for not only do they have proper care for their normal labors, but the midwives pick up abnormalities early enough to rush their patients to hospital where we can often save both mother and baby. They are also teaching the people the danger of hemorrhage in pregnancy. More and more, the news is spreading out among the villages that in this hospital we are doing Caesarean sections, and that the women get through

safely and have live babies if they come at once. Nine Caesareans have been done this year, seven of them for Placenta Praevia. Of these, three were exsanguinated before entry and died. The four that came early lived. One Caesarean was done because of too small a pelvis, and one was done because of a tumor in the pelvis. Both of these women would have died if they had stayed at home for delivery.

There were eighteen forceps cases, twelve version and extractions, one premature separation of placenta, three sets of twins, three hydatid mole, and thirty-six evacuation of uterus. Many women have said to us, "We would have died if we had stayed at home. No one in the jungle could have done this for us." Grateful patients are the best advertisers.

Another line of work that has developed markedly in the past three years is the giving of pneumothorax treatment to tuberculosis patients. This year there have been thirteen taking treatment, and of these all but two have become sputum negative. One of these two has just died in a severe hemorrhage. One Kachin Saya came all the way from Myit-kyina and beyond, for the treatment, and another, a Karen from Shwebo, but both have too many adhesions to get the air in to collapse the lung. Both are greatly disappointed. They say they do not mind how many pokes they get if we could only get the air in. They see the great benefit that the others have received. One boy is to start school again this May, returning for treatment every two weeks. The others are much relieved of cough and are gaining weight.

We are still doing a thriving business in babies, and have found christian homes for a growing number. There is a great demand from other people for our babies, but we do not let them go except to Christians who will take them as their own.

We have no startling and thrilling experiences to relate. Occasionally things get exciting for us when there is a delivery going on in each of three different rooms and it is a race as to which one comes off first. And when the hospital is overflowing the nurses enjoy the rush. Every one of them rises to the emergency need. It is interesting to come back after three years away to find that almost all patients come to hospital instead of calling us out, showing that they are losing their fear of the hospital.

News from Dr. Grey is most encouraging. There has been great improvement, and the specialist thinks she will be able to return in the fall.

Another source of joy is the arrival of Miss Mildred Dixon to help us in the training of the nurses especially and in X-ray and other kinds of work. She will soon find that the work in Burma will develop every ability she has and some that she does not yet know that she possesses.

Grace E. Seagraves

[Editor's Note: What *would* the doctor call "Startling and thrilling" if not a record like this?]



Death of Mrs. E. W. Kelly

Word has just been received in a personal letter from Mr. Dudley that Mrs. E. W. Kelly of Hawthorn, California, passed away in April. Mr. Dudley conducted the funeral service and his son Richard, at whose birth Mrs. Kelly was present in Maymye in 1904, sang two solos at the funeral.

Many will remember the Kellys who were in our mission for years. Dr. Kelly being the Burman missionary at Mandalay and later connected with the educational institutions of our mission in Rangoon, at one time being Principal of Judson College.

C. E. Chaney

His Name Is Legion

His name is legion—for he is many. He is builder, teacher, healer, doctor, surgeon, preacher, plumber, chauffeur, architect—and even this does not complete the list. You may wonder how any one man can be so many but you only have to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Seagrave for one or two days to find out. From home to Nurses' home for morning prayers, from prayers to hospital for morning rounds and receiving new patients, from there to inspect the new house being built on the hill overlooking the beautiful Namkham valley, from here to the operating room where he operates for from three to four hours with scarcely a pause; straight from the operating room to breakfast and then for a short mid-day rest before starting in again in his day-after-day role of playing many parts.

At two o'clock, unless he is called sooner for an emergency case, he is back at the hospital going the rounds of the wards and private rooms with encouragement in his smile and with healing in his hands from the least to the greatest. He makes the blind to see, the lame to walk, those broken in body to be whole again. As he tops at one bed in the men's ward, in answer to his smile he receives a crooked smile from a Lisu Christian man who having had an encounter with a bear has had to have a new hide made for his face. He has had eleven skin grafts made on his face and is not very beautiful yet. Through it all he is patient and uncomplaining and leaves everything to the doctor in whom he has implicit trust. Next to him is a Kachin with a long knife put in his back as a result of a village feud. The cut reaches almost from shoulder to hip and so deep that the lung was punctured. He must spend several weeks in bed waiting for his wound to be completely healed. And so from Kachin to Shan, to Chinese, to Palaung, to Indian and to Lisu he

goes dressing wounds, inspecting, encouraging, and giving of himself to those who place their trust in him.

In addition to all this Dr. Seagrave drives several miles three days a week over into China as a member of the staff of the hospital at the aeroplane factory. He does this in order to make enough extra money to make up his depleted budget for carrying on the work here in his hospital in Namkham. All these patients have to be fed, medicines have to be purchased, dressings furnished, staff members paid. Even though he does not get back to Namkham until five-thirty or six o'clock he still has duties here. He snatches a quick dinner and then goes to the hospital office to try to take care of correspondence and records which must be kept. Late into the night a brain trained for surgery must wrestle with figures and trying to balance the budget with much on the expense side and very little on the credit side. These surgeon hands must pound out letters on the typewriter making endless reports and writing letters to his nurses who have graduated and are working in lonely and difficult places.

I am afraid that this is a poor attempt to estimate my appreciation for the work of a fellow missionary. Others have been here before and have gone back with a new appreciation of the work carried on at our Namkham Hospital under the capable leadership of Doc. The story would not be complete if I did not give credit to the well trained nurses who carry out their duties in such a quiet and efficient manner.

And when one tells of Dr. Seagrave, the story is only half told, for the matron of nurses, Mrs. Seagrave, or Tiny as she is better known, is almost as many as her husband. The nurses shake in their shoes when Tiny visits the hospital, for as they say, she sees everything and is not satisfied unless all is in order and spotlessly clean. It

takes a woman's eye to see disorder and dirt. When the nurses know that she is coming for inspection there is a hurrying and scurrying to get everything in order and to get all the dust out of the corners and from under the beds. In addition to this Tiny has charge of the maternity hospital and it is a joy to see. The people from the village gaze in speechless wonder at the cleanliness of the hospital and the clean babies in their little beds. Right now they have the nicest pair of twins, just a few days old. They look so healthy and clean any mother would be proud to own them. If I thought I could get away with it I believe I would take them home with me.

If all this sounds like a good story, all I ask is that you come and see for yourself.

His name is legion for he is many. He gets that way because he sits at the feet of the Master and in His Presence, with His Spirit and in His Power he carries a load too heavy for one man — he must be many.

Dave Graham,

A Namkham Visitor.



Saga of an Amateur Doctor

Before I returned to America on furlough in 1938, I paid a visit to the churches of our Southern Field. It was during this visit to the churches that I made a new resolve. I saw the little children of these villages in a new light. You may call it a vision or whatever you like, but I call it getting my eyes opened to such an extent that it moved me to action.

Something is wrong when a child is not born into a Karen home every year. I found these villages swarming with children, many of them half hungry and they did not know it, for they thought it was the common lot of children everywhere. They were in many instances poorly clothed, and the clothes they did have on were often foul with dirt. Others were

afflicted with various diseases and helpless within themselves to remedy their condition.

I chased these little children in and around the villages and they came back every time grinning and wanting more. I decided then that if I came back to Burma, I would give at least a part of my time in helping these children to live healthier, happier, and more useful lives.

I came back and though I arrived only in December last, I made my first tour of the churches in January this year. I had planned to take a trained nurse and Mrs. Conrad, but the day before we were to leave in a launch "Jean," the nurse fell down and injured her wrist to such an extent that she was unable to go. They were celebrating Karen New Year. In spite of this mishap, Mrs. Conrad and I left as planned for the headwaters of the Daga River, visiting the churches which line its banks. I called the people together and I spoke to them on each occasion on "Healing and Healing" showing them that the Master went about preaching not only the gospel of a new life and salvation but also he healed those who were sick. That if we are to continue the work which he began, we must be interested in promoting the health of the people.

Although I made no pretensions to being a doctor, yet it is remarkable the confidence and faith the rural people have in the ability of the missionary to do everything. I enjoyed it and learned a lot about the diseases common to nearly every village. It was sometimes amusing to see men and women come to me and expect me to be able to make them young again, or to restore their fading sight with a drop of medicine. It brought me in close touch with the villagers and I was able to get right down where they live and share their feelings. They even carried some of me who were too ill to walk, and the

came from everywhere with divers diseases and wanted to be healed. The desire to be well and free from pain is as strong among these rural people as it is among our missionaries. And I was glad to be able to help them.

Of course I was not able to diagnose all the cases that came to me but when I was in doubt I recommended that they go to the nearest hospital for treatment. But hundreds were able to diagnose and treat at once. I discovered that the diseases and ailments most common were, worms, ringworm, itch, sore eyes, constipation, anæmia, and dirt. We carried medicine for all these except the last one. For being dirty there is no excuse as in most instances a river flowed by the villages.

On this initial trip I examined, while my wife recorded the names and diseases with which they were afflicted, 255 patients in the eleven villages where we held examinations.

I had been told by some of our readers that there were no sick people in the villages and that they would not receive us anyway, but we found a response from the people that was stimulating and encouraging. I went to see one of our pastors one evening to arrange for calling his people together the next morning. He said he did not know of any sick in his church but that he would send out word and I should come back at nine the next morning. I went and found him standing in front of the chapel with one or two who were sick. He said, "Big Teacher, I find only one or two here who are sick." I replied, "Well, we will go up into the chapel." We did and before I had finished we examined twenty-seven. It was this way in every village, and the pastor after seeing so many who were sick, said with a great deal of humility and embarrassment, "I did not know there were so many sick in my village."

He apparently had never thought about the health of his people. He did not consider this work to be a part of his work as pastor. We hope to interest the pastors in this health program until they will support it with all their hearts.

On March 11th I had planned to tour the churches of the southern part of our field. I had asked a Karen engineer to go along for I did not want to be bothered with looking after the launch all the time. He was to have been at my house at 6:30 a.m. but at seven he had not come. I went to the launch and repaired the sampan which I found in need of repairs. At 7:30 the Karen had not come and I wanted to get away early for the tide was favourable. I told the mahli, who had slept on the launch, that we would take the launch to the jetty ourselves. It was then tied up to bamboos in the river. We drew up the anchor, pulled in the ropes and I started the engine. I was to steer the launch and operate the engine. I could do both all right. The mahli was to watch the sampan and prevent it from swinging in behind the bamboo posts to which I had tied my launch. I started, and slowly at that, but I noticed there was a drag from some cause and so looked toward the stern through the cabin just in time to see this Karen mahli performing an acrobatic stunt in the air. He was all spread out like a flying fish and disappeared under the water, but he swam to the shore. The sampan had caught the bamboos and he had apparently jumped into it in an effort to release it and the pull of the motor had thrown the sampan over with some violence and him, first into the air then in the river. My sampan sank but was tied to the launch and so we refloated it. I laughed and only regretted that I had no kodak with me.

We got a late start but at last all were aboard and off we went. The

nurse, a Bible woman, three lady teachers, one male teacher, and Sra Po Po Daik and his wife from Myaungmya comprised our group of workers for this tour. On this tour, as before I always spoke on "Health and Healing," the nurse and I examined those who were sick, and one of the teachers kept the record. It was lots of fun to see this nurse who has in fact retired from active service becoming more and more interested in her work. Several evenings after I had returned to my launch to retire for the night, I could still hear her voice ringing out in the village.

We found the conditions similar to what I had found up the Daga river. Sore eyes and ringworm were in evidence, but when we saw the stagnant, dirty, backwater pools in which they bathed, it was easy to understand why this was true.

On this tour which ended up at the Annual Association at Kanthagone village near Wakema, we examined 520 people: men 120, women 121, boys 145, girls 134. We treated for worms 259 cases, ringworm 60, malaria 46, sore eyes 60, itch 12, sore ears 3, constipation 46 and other diseases 96 cases.

We went from village to village and never found less than forty-five people who needed treatment. The launch gave us no trouble at all and it was a very satisfactory tour. At the Association the nurse treated 128 cases. We did not limit our work merely to the Health Program, but called the Elders together and talked with them about their duty as members of the church of Christ, the lady teachers held meetings for the women of the churches, I preached in some of the villages, and then preached the Easter sermon at the Association.

The Myaungmya pastor, Sra Po Taik, came to see me a few days ago and said, "Sra Padho, when you were on that last tour and I saw you

and nurse Julia examining the sick and giving them medicine, I had little faith to believe it would do much good. I believe now, for I visited some of those villages a few days ago and saw some of them to whom you had given medicine and asked them if it did any good, and in every case they replied, 'I am already well'." He went on to say, "I now believe that it was God's blessing on your efforts of love. Do you remember that man with a septic head? Well he was cured by the medicine which you gave him, and did not have to go to see a doctor as you recommended."

After the Association, I went over the mountains to the seaside to visit our people over there, eighteen of whom including those who carried our luggage, but the nurse and the Bible woman went on touring the church and Pwo villages. She was out for six weeks and just recently came back after having visited twenty-seven churches and examining 585 patients on this one tour alone. And so we have begun to work on our New Health Program and have already won the confidence and co-operation of our people in the villages. Our immediate object is:

1. To establish a medicine chest in each village, to be placed in the hands of one selected by the villagers and medicines to be purchased by the villagers.
2. To have the nurse visit these villages once a year at least and more in case there is an epidemic in any section.
3. To get our people to co-operate in eliminating the breeding places of mosquitoes and the sources of other diseases and ailments.

And it is all being done in the name of the Great Physician Himself. The civil surgeon here in Bassein has co-operated with us in this as well. The Director of Public Health.

Chas. L. Conradi

We Are All Glad!

How good it seems after six weeks in a sick room to be settled comfortably in a lovely corner room with a verandah, on the ground floor of the best House here and again be even to a small measure a part of the strong.

My heart is full of thanksgiving for God's care over me. He has led me to still waters and has restored my soul. What a blessing, if one must be sick, to be in the cool hills and in such a lovely nursing home as "Brightlands," where I had such fine care and where their prayers joined with those of the missionary friends for my recovery. Captain Parry, the doctor, was most careful in his diagnosis and was always sympathetic and reassuring.

How long the weeks would have been without the calls of many friends who brought cheer daily to the sick room and made my birthday there one long to be remembered. Cards and letters from all over Burma brought the fellowship of friends very close.

I am truly thankful to the Lord for daily increasing strength. He surely has been my Keeper.

Olive A. Hastings.



Persons wishing to send mail to America *via* the Pacific may do so safely and without additional postage, by addressing to our Mission in Iloilo, P.I., and asking the Treasurer to forward. This she is doing regularly and letters are reaching New York safely. Example of address:

Dr. R. L. Howard,
152 Madison Avenue
New York City, U.S.A.

c/o Miss Ruth L. Harris,
A. B. Mission Treasurer,
Iloilo, Philippine Islands.

"Book of Worship"

At the Maymyo Missionary Conference action was taken that work should proceed on the little book "Worship for the Village Churches of Burma." Some material has already been gathered. We are very anxious that this book be of great help and that it be widely used.

Therefore — whoever you are or wherever you are in Burma please send to me

(1) descriptions of special services you have held in your church or field;

(2) orders of worship for children's services;

(3) Services of dedication for houses, wells, threshing floors, yearly crops, children, etc.;

(4) Services of Thanksgiving;

(5) and any other suggestions which you may have that are related to the field of Worship; please send them along to

David W. Graham,
Karen Theological Seminary,
Insein.



Toungoo Bwe Karen Mission

For three years very little has been published in the News about the Toungoo Bwes. But now that we seem to have emerged to the sunshine and rainbow stage, we can see clearly the changes which have been made and we have a better view of the road ahead. The whole road is not visible. The prospect however, is more pleasing. The people now have the conviction that they are getting back to sure foundations, and God has brought them through a time of spiritual cleansing.

The achievements of the past year indicate a new spiritual apprehension and growth, for the whole level of thinking has lifted, and the churches are beginning to realize what loyalty to Christ means. The preaching indicates this. Valuable lessons on the

futility of defending one's reputation, obedience and surrender to God, faith and security have been learned. Trusting God is no longer a fine phrase, but a real plane of living, though it does seem so impracticable.

The decision to make an end to the domination of the Home Mission Society over the churches and school has meant drastic revision of finances and evangelistic work. These have become the responsibility of the Association Committees. The churches, being thoroughly Baptist, could not endure the dictatorship of the Society over the Associations. The Home Mission Society was created by the associations, but had become the head, boss, and judge, existing to exercise authority. The people felt this was intolerable and since the association committees were operative, the functions of the Home Mission Society could be transferred to the committees. Under the existing circumstances this seemed best, for changing the Home Mission Society bit by bit over a period of years would result in strangling of the work and hold up natural growth among the churches. The situation in the district was critical. Since the step was taken we have heard of fourteen churches setting about erecting new timber houses of worship. Several have been dedicated. There have been several ordinations too.

The affairs of Bunker School were in a critical state. There were arrears of salaries, unpaid rice bills, repairs not done and only Rs. 5-10-0 in cash to start the year 1939-40. Besides this there was the bad habit of unpaid fees amounting to Rs. 2,450. The final payment to the contractor who built the brick school building nine years ago had not been paid even though the government contribution had been received. The contractor initiated legal proceedings and the government wanted to know all about the affairs of the school. The new school committee, young and inexpe-

rienced, asked the association committees to help.

As a result, all bills and outstanding accounts have been cleared except for one bill of Rs. 74 which was presented after March 31st. We close the year with Rs. 78 cash in hand. Thus there is only Rs. 4 to start the new year, with this great difference the people feel they have acted honestly, the bills and salaries are paid through March and the uncollected arrears amount to Rs. 700 now. This has not been an easy road, for nine times during the year the last rice had been cooked and we had nothing with which to buy. Several merchants would give us credit, but it did not seem wisest to ask for credit. Several times even while the boardmaster was pouring out his woes the postmaster would send a money order or the parents would come with fees. Except for once we never bought more than two bags of rice at a time.

The repairs have been completed except for the girls' dormitory. The building is beyond the stage of economical repairs. The associations voted to ask the school committee to put plans for a new building. The old one would be dismantled and usable timber saved. A saving of about half the cost of the new building could be made.

We do not know what the new year holds for us. Of this we are sure. The Bwe Karens are awakening and are eager to go ahead. There is the promise of a new day. Too long have they waited. It is time the generation of young leaders now available will be connected to a big task that is to carry forward their own work. Likewise the great spiritual lessons the Bwes have learned should be made available to other missions, and operating to the glory of Christ's Kingdom. There is staunchness and zeal among the Bwes. They are a good people, and the mission depends upon them to do their part once they learn their task.

C. L. Kle

A Visit to the Arakan Chins

It was my great pleasure in March and April to attend the annual meeting of the Arakan Chin Association. Law Bwint and I went over a week earlier than it was really necessary, and had that week in Sandoway. It was an inspiration to meet those fine folk who are carrying on the work here. They are sincere and zealous of the evangelistic work, and I think the teachers are making real financial sacrifice in order to keep the school going.

We visited five villages out from Sandoway where there were larger or smaller groups of Christians. In several of these villages there were converts waiting to be baptized.

We left Sandoway by launch with the other folk who were going to the association meeting on a Thursday morning at ten o'clock, and reached the village which was our destination on a Sunday, late afternoon. It was a most leisurely trip. The boat stopped for six hours that first evening at a village to load on firewood. Friday it stopped at 3:30 p.m. and did not start out again until nine o'clock the next morning. That night it stopped again for a slightly shorter time. At both of those places we went ashore and spent the night at Christian homes. Everywhere they told me about the missionaries who had been buried in their cemeteries, and at one place we went to the English cemetery to see the graves. There were four missionaries and one child.

The Association was in a small village where there were not many Christians. But Christians came from everywhere, and there were many non-Christians, too, who came from other villages and stayed the whole time. There were some fine messages given for their benefit.

Although most of these people are poor I thought they were very gene-

rous in their gifts to the work, both of their own association, and to other branches of the work.

There were probably thirty women at the Woman's meeting in the afternoon. I was very happy to meet this fine, intelligent and interesting group.

Many of the women and girls had the black tattooed faces and wore the Chin costume. All wore beautiful yellow orchids in their hair. Many times I watched eight or ten of them in a group going single file to the spring for water, each straight as an American Indian and with a water pot on her head. They were good to look at, and I think they knew it.

It was voted at this annual meeting to divide the Arakan Chin Associations. The distances are so great, and travel so difficult in this district, that they thought it would be wise.

There were five Sandoway girls who talked of coming to the Bible School. One was too young. Two others may not have the permission of their parents. But I am expecting two, at least, to show up.

I was very glad that my attack of malaria came just at the end of this visit to Arakan, when practically all that we had planned to do was done, rather than at the beginning of the trip. I am very grateful to all the folk who helped me to the hospital and for the care I had there. But I think that the unpleasant memory of the fever will never be as vivid as the pleasanter memories of this visit to the Arakan Chin Christians.

Beatrice A. Pond.



Arrivals

On May 2, Miss Eleanor San Tay, from study and touring in America, returning to teaching post in Judson College.

On May 20, Miss Adelaide Martin, from study and touring in America, to the Girls' High School at Mandalay.



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